

Surrounding Chevy Chase Municipalities' Speed Hump Installation Review Procedures

June 14, 2010

Village of Friendship Heights

- None.

Town of Somerset

- There are no minimum support requirements for requests; however, the residents living immediately next to where the proposed speed humps would be installed must be in support
- When a request is received, a traffic engineer is brought in to see if the requested speed hump is warranted.
- Based upon the traffic engineer's findings, the request is either approved or denied by the Town Council.

Village of Chevy Chase, Section 5

- None, currently.
- They currently also do not have any speed humps.
- They have hired an engineer to assess where speed humps should be installed throughout the community.

Village of Martin's Additions

- A professional engineer evaluates all traffic control device and signage requests. As the Village Manager stated, the advantage is that industry standards are applied rather than emotional standards.
- All requested traffic control devices that are determined not to meet the intended goal are reassessed after a period of time.

Town of Chevy Chase

- Detailed policy attached.

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE SPEED HUMP POLICY

Under the provisions of the Town Charter, the Town Manager is authorized to place, construct, maintain or remove speed humps on town streets and roads at those locations approved by the town council. This policy delineates the decision process to be followed by the Town in considering the construction or removal of speed humps.

REQUEST FOR SPEED HUMP CONSTRUCTION

A request for speed hump construction should be submitted to the Town and may originate with:

1. an individual or group of individuals
2. the Public Services Committee
3. the Town Council

Requests for speed humps on streets associated with or adjacent to public facilities such as parks and schools may be made in writing by the official responsible for the management of these facilities.

The request should specify the street(s) on which speed hump construction is requested and state the reason(s) for the request. Any existing information or roadway conditions that support the construction should be noted, including, but not limited to, the following:

- history of vehicular/pedestrian crashes
- identified or documented evidence of speeding
- proximity to high pedestrian volume areas, such as schools, the Leland Center, transit stops, parks, places of worship
- past traffic studies
- other unique circumstances which support construction of a speed hump

EVALUATION OF SPEED HUMP REQUESTS

The Town Council may refer the request to the Town's Public Services Committee for its consideration and recommendation.

If the Town Council determines that a speed hump may be warranted, then it may commission a traffic study to document traffic volume (daily and hourly) and speed. The traffic study should be for a period no less than one week in duration.

In evaluating the traffic data, the road or street segment in question must meet either of the following thresholds to qualify for the installation of the speed hump:

1. A minimum of 120 vehicles per day exceeding 30 mph, or
2. A minimum of 20 vehicles exceeding 30 mph during any hour of the day

If the traffic data do not meet the qualifying thresholds, then any of the parties listed above may propose significant mitigating factors in support of the request.

If the Council chooses to proceed with the consideration of the speed hump(s), the planning for speed hump installation shall be conducted in consultation with a qualified traffic engineer holding a Professional Engineer certification in the State of Maryland. Factors to be considered in the engineering study include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Results of the traffic study
2. Grade of the street
3. Curvature of the street
4. Sight distances
5. Adequate space to provide adequate notice and set-backs from stop signs
6. Traffic safety considerations
7. Curbs, gutters and storm drains
8. On-street parking
9. Impact on emergency services
10. Alternative solutions to said problem

The results of the engineering study will be available to the public.

CITIZEN INPUT AND FINAL DECISION

If the engineering study concludes that the construction of the requested speed hump(s) is feasible, then the Town will hold a public hearing to consider the construction of the proposed speed hump. The Town will provide sufficient written notice of the public hearing to those residents on the block(s) subject to the speed hump request and will use other available communication means to inform all Town residents of the same. Any resident may attend the public hearing and testify.

Following the public hearing and consideration of any written comments provided in response to the public hearing, the Town Council will make a final decision as to the construction of the speed hump(s).

Following construction of speed hump(s), the Council may consider repeating the traffic study to document or evaluate the effectiveness of newly constructed speed hump(s).

PROCEDURE FOR SPEED HUMP REMOVAL

This process may be initiated by the same parties listed above. The written request should be submitted to the Town, specifying the speed hump(s) to be considered for removal and state the reason(s) for the request.

Removal of speed humps should be considered only after an adequate review period and a subsequent engineering analysis has been performed to determine the traffic characteristics along the route and its impact on surrounding streets. Recently constructed speed hump(s) should remain in place for a reasonable period of time before removal is considered.

The Town Council may refer the request to the Town's Public Services Committee for its consideration and recommendation.

If the Town Council determines that removal of a speed hump may be warranted, then the Town will hold a public hearing to consider the removal. The Town will provide sufficient written notice of the public hearing to those residents on the block(s) subject to the speed hump request and will use other available communication means to inform all Town residents of the same. Any resident may attend the public hearing and testify.

Following the public hearing and consideration of any written comments provided in response to the public hearing, the Town Council will make a final decision as to the removal of the speed hump(s).

If unforeseen safety considerations arise following the installation of a speed hump, the Council may remove a speed hump without following this process, although involving residents in the decision is strongly recommended.